

**REMARKS**

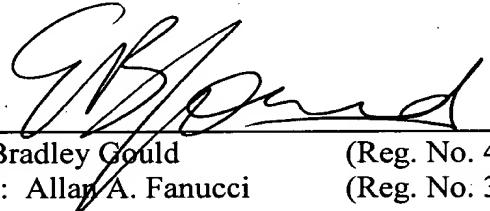
In response to the species election requirement, Species II is preliminarily elected to which original claims 1-8, 11-14, and 17 are drawn. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more divisional or continuing applications to protect the inventions of the other disclosed, but unclaimed, subject matter prior to the issuance of this application.

The election requirement is traversed, however, as all of the species are drawn to cartridges for preparing a food product with a barrier to retain the food, and thus there is no serious burden for searching and examining all of the species.

The claim amendments that were made more particularly define the invention under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 17 includes a phrase that previously appeared in claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,

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